



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
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Week Ending July 29, 2012

Issued weekly, April-November

Released July 30, 2012, 4 pm

This report can be found on the Internet at www.nass.usda.gov/pa and click on "Pennsylvania Publications."

Fair Week for Field Work: Pennsylvania had an average of 4 days suitable for field work. Some much needed rain passed through the state. Field activities for the week included harvesting, clipping pastures and getting ready for fall planting and harvesting.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending July 29, 2012

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
4	30	63	3

Crop Progress: Corn silking continues and is 87% complete, ahead of last year's 70% and the 5-year average of 72%. Corn dough continues and is 14% complete, compared with 9% last year and the average of 11%. Corn height is 76 inches, ahead of 71 inches last year and the average of 72 inches. Oats are 99% yellow, ahead of 81% at this time last year and the average of 90%. Oats are 95% ripe, compared with 43% at this time last year and the 5-year average of 60%. Oats harvest continues and is 64% complete, compared with 23% last year and the average of 28%. The potato harvest has begun and is 6% complete, ahead of last year's 3% and the average of 3%. Third cutting alfalfa continues and is 63% complete ahead of last year's 44% and the 5-year average of 39%. The second cutting of timothy/clover continues and is 79% complete, ahead of last year's 53% and the 5-year average of 50%. The peach harvest continues and is 63% complete compared with 25% last year and the 5-year average of 33%. The apple harvest is 25% complete, ahead of 15% at this time last year and the average of 12%.

Crop Condition: State-wide corn conditions are; 3% very poor, 10% poor, 38% fair, 38% good, and 11% excellent. Oat conditions are; 0% very poor, 1% poor, 27% fair, 55% good, and 17% excellent. Soybean conditions are; 0% very poor, 6% poor, 35% fair, 46% good, and 13% excellent. Quality of hay made is; 0% very poor, 4% poor, 39% fair, 35% good and 22% excellent. Pasture conditions are; 14% very poor, 31% poor, 37% fair, 14% good and 4% excellent. Apple conditions are; 1% very poor, 0% poor, 15% fair, 45% good, and 39% excellent.

Nationwide as of July 22, 2012: Warmer-than-normal weather continued across most areas east of the Rocky Mountains. Weekly maximum temperatures throughout the Great Plains and most of the Corn Belt reached well into the triple digits, adversely affecting not only dryland crops but many irrigated fields as well. Beneficial moisture fell in scattered parts of the West, while much of the Delta and areas east of the Mississippi River accumulated more than twice the weekly normal rainfall. Much of the nation's heartland remained dry, with weekly totals less than 5 percent of normal in the western Corn Belt and central Great Plains.

Corn: By week's end, 86 percent of the crop was at or beyond the silking stage, 30 percentage points ahead of last year and 27 points ahead of the 5-year average. Although portions of the eastern Corn

Belt received much-needed rainfall during the week, the moisture did little to benefit drought-affected corn—as most of the crop was past the critical pollination stage. Nationwide, 22 percent of the corn crop was at or beyond the dough stage by July 22, fifteen percentage points ahead of last year and 13 points ahead of the 5-year average. Persistently warm weather continued to promote rapid phenological development of this year's corn crop. By July 22, six percent of the nation's crop was dented, 4 percentage points ahead of both last year and the 5-year average. Overall, 26 percent of the corn crop was reported in good to excellent condition, down 5 percentage points from last week and 36 points below the same time last year. **Soybeans:** Seventy-nine percent of this year's soybeans were at or beyond the blooming stage by July 22, twenty-five percentage points ahead of last year and 19 points ahead of the 5-year average. Rapid crop development was evident in most of the major growing regions during the week. By week's end, 36 percent of the soybean crop was setting pods, 23 percentage points ahead of last year and 17 points ahead of the 5-year average. Above-average temperatures promoted pod setting, with double-digit progress evident in 14 of the 18 major producing states during the week. Overall, 31 percent of the soybean crop was reported in good to excellent condition, down 3 percentage points from last week and 31 percentage points below the same time last year. Crop conditions continued to deteriorate throughout much of the western Corn Belt, as drought conditions worsened under hot, dry weather during the week. **Winter Wheat:** Winter wheat harvest in most areas was complete or nearly complete, as hot, dry weather quickly matured this year's crop. By week's end, 82 percent of this year's crop was out of the field, 11 percentage points ahead of last year and 9 points ahead of the 5-year average. While progress was mostly steady across the nation's northern tier, cooler weather and above-average rainfall in portions of Oregon and Washington slowed harvest toward week's end. **Small Grains:** With rapid progress evident in most regions, oat harvest surpassed the halfway point during the week. By week's end, producers had harvested 57 percent of the nation's crop, 38 percentage points ahead of last year and 36 points ahead of the 5-year average. Overall, 59 percent of the oat crop was reported in good to excellent condition, unchanged from last week but 3 percentage points better than the same time last year. Barley producers had harvested 6 percent of the this year's crop by July 22, six percentage points ahead of last year and 5 points ahead of the 5-year average. In North Dakota, consistently above-average temperatures promoted rapid phenological development of this year's crop, and provided producers with nearly a week of days suitable for fieldwork. Overall, 57 percent of the barley crop was reported in good to excellent condition, down 3 percentage points from last week and 20 points below the same time last year. By week's end, 98 percent of the spring wheat crop was at or beyond the heading stage. This was 21 percentage points ahead of last year and 8 points ahead of the 5-year average. Producers had harvested 12 percent of the crop, 12 percentage points ahead of both last year and the 5-year average. Overall, 60 percent of the of spring wheat crop was reported in good to excellent condition, down 5 percentage points from last week and 14 points below the same time last year.

Weather Data For Week Ending July 29, 2012

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - July 29, 2012					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	91	59	76	5	1.09	3	9.80	-4.19	38	1,857	455	2,889
Franklin_AG	90	54	74	5	2.21	4	12.63	-3.93	47	1,730	393	2,759
Meadville-Port	88	56	75	6	1.78	4	12.03	-3.80	40	1,800	581	2,844
Clarion	89	53	71	2	2.97	5	15.37	-1.71	44	1,525	162	2,536
Springboro	90	50	72	0	1.05	5	12.73	-1.30	44	1,562	154	2,556
Warren	88	55	72	3	2.42	4	13.69	-2.60	46	1,606	307	2,619
North Central												
Bradford Region	85	46	71	6	0.71	3	11.91	-4.63	46	1,444	499	2,440
Oswayo	85	45	68	3	0.74	4	11.59	-4.27	41	1,299	245	2,266
Kane	87	53	71	6	1.94	5	15.87	-0.72	49	1,307	375	2,279
Laporte	84	56	71	0	1.50	3	19.52	4.01	51	1,404	65	2,407
Lock Haven	92	58	75	5	1.44	4	14.29	-0.83	52	1,839	419	2,937
Coudersport_1SW	86	48	69	3	2.32	4	14.87	-0.99	52	1,312	258	2,281
Renovo	90	54	75	5	1.71	4	17.44	2.32	47	1,788	368	2,877
Ridgway	87	49	73	6	2.29	4	13.21	-3.66	48	1,519	462	2,533
Stevenson Dam	90	53	74	8	2.80	4	14.21	-2.66	42	1,715	658	2,786
Towanda	89	56	74	4	1.18	6	14.14	1.29	50	1,641	291	2,672
Wellsboro	87	51	70	4	1.09	4	12.33	-0.68	46	1,351	353	2,350
Williamsport	94	59	78	6	1.61	4	13.69	-1.48	50	1,995	418	3,106
Northeast												
Hawley	87	53	71	3	2.83	5	13.98	-0.43	46	1,464	326	2,472
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	91	59	76	5	1.10	5	13.87	-0.32	51	1,873	375	2,942
Susquehanna	87	54	73	6	3.78	5	17.55	2.12	47	1,560	467	2,578
West Central												
Butler	91	54	74	4	1.46	5	12.41	-3.11	44	1,779	390	2,846
New Castle	93	54	76	6	2.53	4	13.86	-0.50	39	1,893	495	2,971
Slippery Rock	92	53	75	6	2.50	3	14.00	-1.19	39	1,827	569	2,897
Central												
Altoona/Blair	91	57	75	4	1.55	5	13.83	-0.28	43	1,926	423	3,034
DuBois	86	53	73	4	2.48	4	13.49	-2.13	44	1,646	349	2,690
Lewistown	95	61	77	4	1.65	3	15.85	0.61	54	1,941	294	3,073
Middletown	93	64	79	3	1.29	4	15.99	1.26	46	2,201	340	3,354
Prince Gallitzi	91	53	73	6	2.99	4	17.13	-0.85	42	1,589	402	2,642
Selinsgrove	94	60	77	5	1.08	3	13.78	-1.39	52	1,879	340	2,972
State College	92	60	75	4	1.13	3	15.06	1.07	53	1,848	363	2,946
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	93	61	77	4	1.32	5	16.86	1.50	46	2,037	333	3,163
Lehighton	91	58	74	0	1.74	5	16.93	1.50	52	1,721	84	2,814
Matamoras	89	58	74	3	2.23	6	17.24	1.12	60	1,737	257	2,833
Mt_Pocono	88	52	73	6	1.33	4	16.29	-0.53	56	1,503	510	2,543
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	92	61	77	6	0.99	5	12.53	-2.40	45	2,152	643	3,271
Indiana_PA	90	55	74	4	2.19	6	15.29	-2.06	61	1,820	368	2,893
Myersdale	91	53	72	2	2.11	5	15.65	-1.33	50	1,385	15	2,415
Chalk_Hill	88	51	71	-2	1.80	5	16.28	-0.28	50	1,494	-119	2,532
Pittsburgh Intl	92	59	76	4	2.97	5	13.80	-0.18	42	2,088	507	3,198
Connellsville	91	57	74	2	2.00	6	15.59	-0.97	49	1,915	302	3,035
Waynesburg	91	54	74	3	2.45	5	12.55	-2.67	42	1,837	380	2,933
South Central												
Biglerville	95	64	77	2	0.59	2	16.37	2.87	47	2,053	225	3,193
Everett	94	55	74	3	0.96	3	15.40	1.77	51	1,688	215	2,774
Hanover	93	61	76	1	0.67	1	16.64	3.14	49	1,991	163	3,120
Harrisburg_AP	95	63	79	4	1.14	4	16.12	1.39	47	2,249	381	3,404
South Mountain	90	55	72	1	0.28	2	17.44	3.33	48	1,638	142	2,715
York	92	60	76	2	0.77	3	14.36	-0.63	52	2,007	186	3,121
Southeast												
Green Lane	93	62	77	5	1.57	4	15.49	0.44	46	2,002	380	3,142
Hamburg	93	62	77	6	0.97	4	16.46	-1.50	49	1,977	505	3,104
West_Chester	93	60	77	3	0.61	3	13.37	-3.45	32	1,975	167	3,093
Lancaster	93	63	77	3	1.39	3	13.28	-2.36	39	2,108	401	3,237
Neshaminy Falls	95	60	78	5	1.87	4	16.23	-1.33	48	2,074	379	3,232
New Holland	93	61	79	5	1.29	3	15.45	-0.19	39	2,127	420	3,289
Philadelphia	97	70	82	5	0.50	2	10.32	-4.82	31	2,427	465	3,606
Philadelphia NE	96	64	80	4	1.06	3	12.29	-2.85	40	2,225	263	3,385
Reading	96	63	79	6	0.99	4	12.69	-3.87	46	2,220	547	3,368
Sellersville	92	54	76	3	1.06	3	16.43	1.38	41	1,875	253	2,974
Doylestown_AG	94	64	78	5	1.48	2	16.08	-1.48	43	2,075	380	3,218

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.

Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.

Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.

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REPORTERS COMMENTS, By County

Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.

ADAMS COUNTY, Judy A. Behney

Adams County had another week of hot and humid weather. Most days it was 90 degrees plus. Monday, some sporadic showers passed through in the late afternoon through some parts of the county but not much accumulation. Thursday morning thunderstorm hit parts of county in the morning and again in the evening with various rainfall amounts from 0.5" around York Springs, 0.7" around Littlestown and then 0.2" Bonnaeville and around Gettysburg. Morning temperatures were mostly in the 70's. The rainfall amounts are greatly appreciated and have greened the crops and have them looking better.

Corn is still going to be affected as pollination issues occur from hot weather being over 100 degrees and soybeans had to be replanted. Some affected by being too wet earlier, and slug damage, and has some looking good but some looking pretty bad too. Wheat and barley producers are reporting some good and some not so good yields. Hay is being harvested and the rains will be beneficial to future crops. Some areas reported that hail was received throughout the county being dime to quarter size hailstones. Apples will be a pretty good crop but Gardners' area has reported hail damage. Peaches seem to be a pretty good crop and sweeter since we had dryer weather. Higher losses have been reported for plums, apricots and sweet cherries due to weather conditions this spring. Strawberries, blueberries and raspberries had some losses also. Raspberries may have been affected by last fall's rain because they produce on last year's growth. Sweet corn and other vegetables are looking pretty good. Overall, the producers are welcoming whatever rains we can get for our crops and are still hopeful that a decent yield can still happen in the county.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little

It rained almost every day this week. Producers are anxiously waiting to cut oats and 2nd crop of hay. Heavy downpours came through on Thursday and Friday. Thursday evening, we received over 2.5 inches and Friday evening over 1.5 inches. The heavy rains in short periods are causing some erosion problems.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker

It was good growing conditions this week, with 1 inch of rainfall.

ERIE COUNTY, Nancy Lewis

Much needed rainfall was received this week.

FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr

This week was typical summer weather with hit and miss showers. All crops are doing well at this time; however some earlier dry weather will affect the silage crop. Peaches are picking out short but quality is excellent and price is good. Apples look like they will be off about 25 to 30 percent.

MERCER COUNTY, James P. Rust

The County only received 1.1 inch of rainfall for the weekend. Most of the storms and rain went north of our area. The rain may have arrived too late for the early tasseling corn. It has some pollination problems along with small ears. Conditions of the soybeans have improved since the rain.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer

The small amount of rain was a big help to the corn and soybeans. However, the early corn on the droughty soils is beyond help. Soybeans are showing a lot of flowers and hopefully they will set many pods. The main activities for the week were harvesting, clipping pastures and getting ready for fall planting and harvesting.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr

Generally, the entire county received between 2 and 3 inches of rain this week. This moisture along with cooler temperatures has dramatically improved crop conditions. Much of the corn crop has now received enough moisture to about finish the crop. Later hay cuttings and pastures are also responding nicely.

YORK COUNTY, John Rowehl

There are good signs of recovery for corn and soybeans since rain came to the area the previous week.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending July 29, 2012

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn, silk	87	70	72
Corn, dough	14	9	11
Corn average height, inches	76	71	72
Oats, turning yellow	99	81	90
Oats, ripe	95	43	60
Oats, harvested	64	23	28
Potatoes, harvested	6	3	3
Alfalfa, 3rd cutting	63	44	39
Timothy clover, 2nd cutting	79	53	50
Peaches, harvested	63	25	33
Apples, harvested	25	15	12

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending July 29, 2012

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	3	10	38	38	11
Oats	0	1	27	55	17
Soybeans	0	6	35	46	13
Quality of hay made	0	4	39	35	22
Pasture	14	31	37	14	4
Apples	1	0	15	45	39

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